

a path of steady growth. Through his leadership the school has gained many new and talented faculty members, and has seen substantial growth in its endowment. He has initiated capital improvement projects on the school's campus, expanded the school's international partnerships, and has developed new clinics and institutes to focus on distinct fields of legal study. And he has sustained and built upon Vermont Law School's environmental law program, which has been rated the best program in the Nation for the last three consecutive years, and in the top two for the last 21 years. These continuing successes are reflective of Dean Shields' strong leadership and the dedication of the faculty, staff, and students who sustain a vital community of learning and innovation in the hills of central Vermont.

During his career in public service, Dean Shields served as assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and as counsel to Senator Frank Church. After he earned his law degree, he served as a law clerk for the late Judge James Oakes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, for whom a class room building at Vermont Law School is named.

In the private sector, he served as a partner at the Chicago and Washington, DC, law firm of Gardner Carton and Douglas, where he was nationally recognized for his expertise in non-profit law, corporate law, health care law and international trade law.

Dean Shields has also made important contributions to education and scholarship beyond Vermont Law School. In Brattleboro, VT, he served as a foreign student advisor and assistant to the president at the Experiment in International Living and as an adjunct professor of economics at Marlboro College in Marlboro, VT. Dean Shields has also been involved in foreign policy issues through editing and writing, and as a member of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dean Shields recently overcame serious illness with grace, humility, and determination. As he moves into the next chapter of his life, Marcelle and I wish him and his wife Genie the best for continued health and happiness.

I thank Dean Shields for his 8 years of dedication to Vermont Law School, and I convey my admiration and respect for the contributions he has made to Vermont. He will leave Vermont's young law school and its faculty, staff and students in a strong position for continued growth and success. I am sure he will be greatly missed by all of those who have worked with him and learned from him. I wish him all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CROSIER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Crosier for his outstanding service to the State of New Hampshire's residents and business community.

John retired as president of our State's largest business organization, the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, in 2004 after 16 years. He has served the residents of my State as a trustee of the University System of New Hampshire, a position which I am proud to have first appointed him to, as a member of the board of governors for the New Hampshire Forum on Higher Education, as a member of the executive committee of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics, and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee representing State chambers of commerce. Before he came to New Hampshire, he worked in Massachusetts as the head of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and as Commissioner of Employment Security for our neighboring State. He was appointed by a Republican Governor and reappointed by a Democratic Governor.

John has been a board leader at numerous nonprofits in my State, lending his energy, intellect and voice to some of New Hampshire's most influential and important organizations: the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Junior Achievement, Leadership New Hampshire and the American Cancer Society.

Throughout his years as the head of the Business and Industry Association, and through his nonprofit board leadership, John's guiding principle has been what's best for New Hampshire.

When I was Governor of New Hampshire, John Crosier was one of my most trusted advisors. A gentleman always, his courage of conviction and pragmatic optimism for our State's future always trumped ideology. He has been, and continues to be, a role model for civility in public discourse.

John's commitment to New Hampshire was evident in his visionary work on the State's most extensive research project, which resulted in a statewide economic strategy in 1996—An Agenda for Continued Economic Opportunity in New Hampshire. That plan set forth by John has been credited with my State's recent strong economic recovery in relation to neighboring States. Pieces of it are still being used today as a framework for New Hampshire, and it served as the foundation for a similar report by my administration during my second term as Governor. His belief that the health of the business sector is closely tied to issues of education, environment, and the non-profit sector has contributed to the leadership of our State and will continue to guide our State in the future.

I thank John Crosier for his service to New Hampshire as he prepares for his well-deserved retirement. I am grateful for his friendship, leadership and advice throughout the years.●

RECOGNIZING FALCON PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in cities and towns all across America, there are businesses that are synonymous with the communities they serve. Maine has historically been home to a number of these companies, from local paper mills to Bath Iron Works. In the Lewiston-Auburn region, Falcon Performance Footwear has been part of the fabric since 1963, producing high-quality shoes and boots for generations of Mainers and Americans. On Tuesday, August 23, Falcon Performance Footwear will be recognized by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MEP, with its 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award. I commend Falcon for its fine work and congratulate the company on its recognition.

Falcon Shoe Manufacturing Company got its start in 1963, when Ted Johanson opened the factory's doors at the Roy Continental Mill in Lewiston. Originally, Falcon produced children's shoes, but over time focused its efforts on manufacturing boots for a number of uses. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Falcon began implementing a number of forward-thinking and innovative processes, including the first in the shoe industry to utilize computerized stitching equipment, as well as the first direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes in the country. The company was also the first to make Timberland boots. To provide the company with the ability to expand, Falcon moved from its longtime home in Lewiston to a larger location in the neighboring city of Auburn earlier this year.

Today, Falcon's sole focus is on making reliable, sturdy, comfortable boots, particularly for consumers in labor-intensive jobs. The company produces a number of cutting-edge industrial boots, and in 2006 began working with Globe Firefighter Suits, a New Hampshire small business, to create a state-of-the-art boot for firefighters designed with an athletic shoe platform rather than a more rigid welted sole to provide added flexibility. Falcon added mining boots to its repertoire in 2009, which feature a type of leather that resists many of the salts and minerals frequently encountered by miners.

Over the past decade, Falcon has worked with the Maine MEP to improve its efficiency and productivity, allowing the company to better compete in the global economy. As a result of this collaboration, Falcon has increased its productivity by 60 percent, retained over 50 jobs, increased its sales, and trained all of its employees in a number of advanced manufacturing techniques. I have long been a supporter of, and advocate for, the MEP program, and recognize the immense value of its services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers across the country. Indeed, as a result of their partnership with the Maine MEP over the past 5 years, clients have reported increased and retained sales